

Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program

Contact: **Cullen Stephenson**, Program Manager, (360) 407-6103

Program Mission

The mission of the Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program is to reduce both the amount and the effects of wastes generated in Washington State.

Environmental Threat

The agency works to minimize environmental threats from pollution of the state's ground water, surface water, and air that result from the improper disposal of wastes. Some of the largest toxic-waste cleanup sites in Washington are former solid waste landfills that have failed to contain hazardous materials disposed at them.

Wastewater, air contaminants, and hazardous wastes generated by industrial sources are produced in very large volumes and remain significant threats to Washington's environment. The industries associated with these waste streams are pulp and paper, aluminum smelting, and oil refining businesses.

The continued increase in waste caused by the state's growing population will require a shift in policy emphasis to waste reduction and prevention as a basis for sustainable solid waste management.

Authorizing Laws

- *Chapter 70.95 RCW, Solid Waste Management Act – Reduction and Recycling*
- *Chapter 70.93 RCW, the Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Model Litter Control Act*
- *Chapter 70.95C RCW, Waste Reduction*
- *Chapter 70.105 RCW, Hazardous Waste Management Act*
- *Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*
- *Chapter 70.138 RCW, Incinerator Ash Residue*
- *Chapter 70.105D RCW, Hazardous Waste Cleanup - Model Toxics Control Act*
- *Chapter 70.95D RCW, Solid Waste Incinerators and Landfill Operators*
- *Chapter 70.95J RCW, Municipal Sewage Sludge - Biosolids*

Constituents/Interested Parties

- *State and local governments*
- *Environmental interests*

- *Private sector*
- *Businesses*
- *Citizens*

Major Activities and Results

Eliminate Waste, Promote Material Reuse, and Safely Manage Trash

Waste reduction and recycling conserves resources and saves money in both the public and private sectors. The agency created a 30-year vision and strategic plan for solid waste reduction that includes: technical assistance on pollution prevention strategies; assistance in establishing and operating local recycling programs; improved management of building materials (new and waste); and implementation of an organic materials reuse strategy. This strategic plan is called the Beyond Waste Plan, also referred to as Never Waste. (Authorizing laws - 70.95 and 70.93 RCW)

Result

Solid waste generation per capita decreases, saving businesses and people money, and saving resources for future generations.

- Implement the Beyond Waste Plan, including strategic partnerships with business and government, to reduce solid waste and leverage resources.
- Offer incentives and technical assistance to increase green building practices, expand closed loop recycling and reuse of organic matter, and compost to save resources and decrease the amount of material going to landfills.
- Reduce generation and use of toxic materials by citizens and industries.
- Increase markets for environmentally preferred purchasing through state and local government purchasing.
- Design performance indicators to track progress toward the 30-year vision of eliminating most wastes.

Fund Local Efforts to Clean Up Toxic Sites and Manage or Reduce Waste

The agency protects public health and promotes resource recovery through the administration of three capital grant programs. Coordinated

Prevention Grants support landfill regulation to protect groundwater, recycling, and reuse programs, and hazardous waste collection. New initiatives focus on reuse of organic materials and waste and toxicity reduction for buildings. Remedial Action Grants are used to clean up contaminated sites for groundwater protection and/or redevelopment of the land. Public Participation Grants are used to inform citizens of local cleanups and waste reduction efforts. (Authorizing laws - 70.105D and 70.93 RCW)

Result

Grant funding is provided to local governments for cleaning up contaminated sites and for local solid waste and recycling programs. Grant funding is provided for citizen participation in local contaminated site cleanups.

- Provide and manage over \$110 million in grants to local governments, leveraging approximately \$45 million in local government resources.
- Provide technical assistance for approximately 223 agreements with roughly 400 projects.
- Collect over 25 million pounds of moderate-risk waste each year for proper recycling or disposal at moderate-risk waste collection facilities funded through Coordinated Prevention Grants.
- Manage grant funds to local jurisdictional health departments to ensure that approximately 350 solid waste facilities statewide are in compliance with regulatory standards.
- Provide and manage funding for 31 toxic site cleanups and the cleanup of drinking water systems.
- Provide access and information to citizens about local cleanup activities.

Provide a One Stop Shop to the State's Largest Industrial Facilities for Environmental Permitting

The agency provides a single point of contact for petroleum refineries, pulp and paper mills, aluminum smelters, and three chemical manufacturing facilities. Rather than having multiple inspectors work on the many environmental issues at a facility, one engineer provides coverage for all environmental media. This results in balanced regulation for these major industries. (Authorizing laws: 70.94, 90.48, 70.105, 70.95C, 70.95, and 70.105D RCW)

Result

Compliance with environmental standards at facilities regulated by the Industrial Section is ensured.

- Provide one-stop environmental permitting, compliance, and technical assistance to major industry sectors.
- Maintain an 80% rate of current permits.
- Ensure an 80% compliance rate with federal and state standards.

Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment

Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) are a particular group of chemicals that can significantly affect the health of humans, fish, and wildlife. The agency developed, and the Legislature funded in the 2001-03 biennium, implementation of a long-term strategy designed to reduce PBTs in Washington's environment over the coming years. The 2005 Legislature provided funding to complete the Chemical Action Plan for polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs - a flame retardant found in many household products), to monitor a number of Washington lakes for mercury and PBDEs, and to complete a third Chemical Action Plan. (Authorizing laws - 70.94, 90.48, 90.52, 70.105, 70.95C, 70.95, 70.105D, 49.70, and 70.95M RCW)



Mercury is a highly toxic liquid metal that has been linked to movement and learning disabilities

Result

Reduce and phase out PBT uses, releases, and exposures.

- Continue to implement the Mercury Chemical Action Plan. Areas of focus are dental offices, hospitals, and automobile recyclers. Agreements concerning how these sectors can best reduce their use of mercury are being developed. Mercury monitoring in the environment is also being conducted to establish a baseline.
- A Chemical Action Plan for the flame retardant PBDE is being developed. Of particular concern is the potential for significant exposure in residential settings.
- Funding has been provided to begin development of a third Chemical Action Plan by the end of the biennium.

Prevent and Pick Up Litter

Litter control efforts include a litter prevention campaign, Ecology Youth Corps litter pickup crews, Community Litter Cleanup contracts, and coordination with other state and local efforts to maximize litter pickup. Litter prevention and pickup helps to keep Washington green, supports tourism, and provides employment opportunities for youth. (Authorizing law - 70.93 RCW)



Bags of litter picked up in Okanogan County by the Ecology Youth Litter Corps

Result

Roads are cleaner, as indicated by a Road Cleanliness Indicator, through prevention campaigns and litter being picked up in a timely manner.

- The annual road cleanliness rating improved for the first time in years when the prevention campaign started, dropping from 4.8 in 1999 to 4.0 in 2004.
- Pick up, with local partners, 3,500 tons of litter annually.
- Ecology Youth Corps employs 400 youths in litter pickup each year.
- Receive and respond to 14,000 litter hotline calls each year.
- Conduct a litter survey to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of litter programs. Litter generation decreased 24% between 1999 and 2004 (from 8,322 tons to 6,315 tons).
- Provide \$3 million in grants to local governments to clean up litter and illegal dumps.

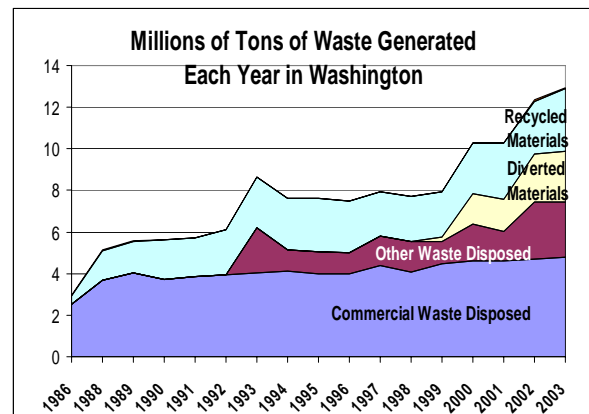
Major Issues

Waste Prevention

Preventing waste is a more effective strategy than managing waste. The Legislature recognized this when it established a waste management hierarchy

for both solid waste and hazardous waste, with waste prevention as the highest priority. Major accomplishments of the last two decades, however, have been with waste management (landfills) in the 80s and recycling in the 90s. Neither has slowed the growth of waste generation. The population continues to grow and waste generation per capita is rising. Additionally, for each pound of garbage that enters the waste system or is recycled, roughly 15 pounds of waste is created in the processing and material extraction phases.

The challenge is to meaningfully reduce wastes and its undesired effects while maintaining a high quality of life and a strong economy in Washington.



Beyond Waste Implementation

Beyond Waste is Washington's long-range strategy for reducing wastes and its impacts throughout the entire production life cycle. A closed-loop recycling system will help to eliminate most wastes, where products will be designed to enter a technical or organic recycling loop, creating business opportunities. Waste is lost profit. Using recycled feedstock is financially sustainable for the long-term. One early stage of implementing the Beyond Waste plan uses state and local government purchasing power to increase markets for environmentally preferable products. Other steps address waste generation more directly, offering incentives and technical assistance to increase green building practices and composting, and working with industry to reduce hazardous waste in priority categories, including electronics.

Local Funding

Local governments will continue to be essential partners in carrying out the Beyond Waste agenda, in addition to businesses and non-profit organizations. Most local government solid waste infrastructure and programs are paid for with disposal (user) fees of some sort, although about a third of their costs are for non-disposal-related activities, such as recycling programs and household hazardous waste collection. For the long term, financing non-disposal activities with surcharges on disposal fees is fiscally unsustainable, especially as waste disposal decreases due to recycling and reduction.



Managing electronic waste is a growing problem

State grant funds through the Coordinated Prevention Grant program provide needed additional funds for a broad range of solid waste related project and programs. These monies are appropriated from the Local Toxics Control Account. Currently, funding for Coordinated Prevention Grants is significantly lower than in past biennia, causing serious challenges for local solid waste managers to continue offering the programs they have established, let alone tackle new reduction initiatives.

Environmental Footprint

The agency has received a federal innovation grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to explore how to more effectively regulate facilities with multiple permits and impacts. The grant will support work to develop a measurement tool that includes environmental, economic, and social indicators, consistent with the Beyond Waste vision of sustainability.

Chemical Policy

With the completion of the Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBT) rule (scheduled

for December 2005), the agency has laid out a path to reduce the health impacts of toxins to citizens. However, hundreds of new chemicals are introduced every year, and the federal Toxics Substances Control Act has not been successful in preventing problems from occurring. Completing one or two Chemical Action Plans per year is unlikely to keep up with the need to address toxins in our environment.

Maintaining Momentum of Litter Reduction

Since launching the “litter and it will hurt” campaign in the spring of 2002, Ecology has tracked several indicators that suggest the state is on the right path to reducing roadway litter. For example, the state’s litter survey measured a 25% reduction in the amount of litter on state roadways since 1999. However, with a growing population and more cars on the road, roadway litter is still a visible problem in many areas of the state.

The challenge is to maintain momentum and keep the litter prevention campaign materials fresh and interesting. During 2005, the agency will revise the litter prevention strategy with several goals in mind.

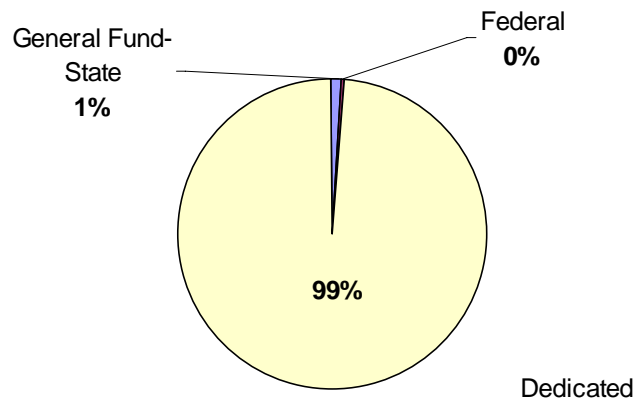
- *Emphasis on enforcement:* Enforcement is the greatest deterrent to littering. The agency continues to build partnerships with the law-enforcement community. The agency funded a pilot local enforcement project in Snohomish County, however, it was semi-successful; media attention was excellent, but few tickets were actually written. In addition, there are reports from the Washington State Patrol that 1,025 tickets written for “potentially dangerous litter” are being tossed out of court. Identifying barriers and solutions to enforcement of litter laws will continue to be a substantial challenge.
- *Increase focus on safety:* Roadway litter is increasingly being recognized as a safety hazard. In 2004, Maria Federici of Renton was blinded when a board fell off a truck and crashed through her windshield. In 2005, Doris Heneghen of Omak was killed when a heavy metal pin smashed through her windshield. The agency will continue to look for opportunities to promote its unsecured load brochure and video.

Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program Budget

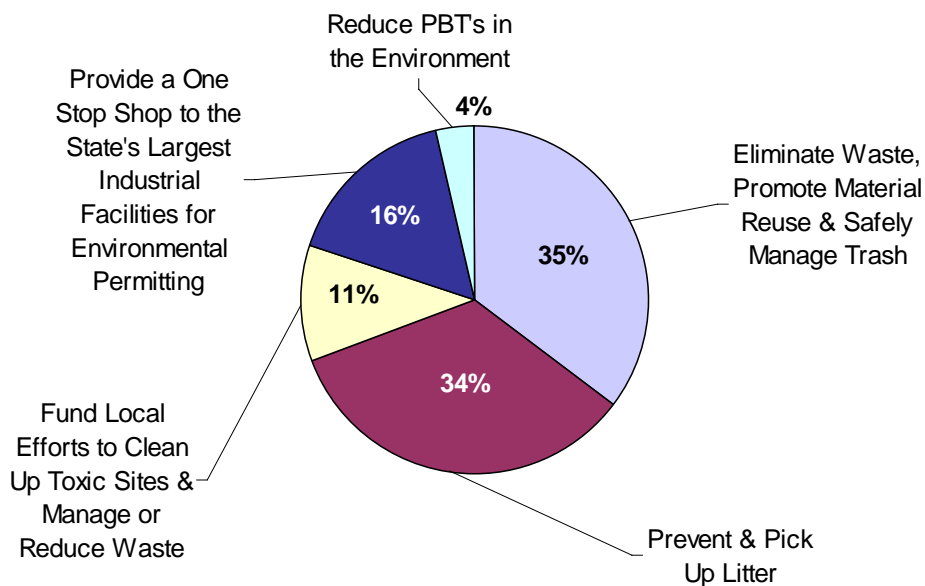
Budget = \$26.4 million; FTEs = 97.8

State	(\$)	Amount	Sources	Uses
General Fund – State	280,989	Multiple	Water quality permit enforcement actions.	
Federal				
General Fund – Federal	98,618	Environmental Protection Agency	Grants for product stewardship and innovative water quality permits.	
Dedicated Funds				
Local Toxics Control Account	3,058,685	Hazardous substance tax	Technical assistance and grants are provided to local governments for local solid waste planning and oversight of solid waste facilities.	
State Toxics Control Account	5,429,637	Hazardous substance tax; recovered remedial actions and penalties collected	Provide technical assistance to local health departments, pollution prevention initiatives, regulatory reform, industrial dangerous waste and cleanup activities; public participation grants.	
Waste Reduction/Litter Control Account	13,880,650	Litter Tax	Supports the Ecology Youth Corps and other efforts to clean up litter, litter prevention campaign, (50%); recycle hotline, technical assistance in waste reduction, pollution prevention initiatives and recycling (30%); litter grants to local government (20%).	
Water Quality Permit Fees	1,508,555	Permit fees collected for wastewater discharge permits	Industrial water quality permitting and inspections, sediment source control.	
Air Operating Permit	1,179,068	Permit fees collected for air contaminant sources	Industrial air quality permitting, inspections, enforcement.	
Biosolids Permit	705,140	Fee on sewage treatment facilities	Develop and implement the biosolids program.	
Environmental Excellence	300,000	Environmental Excellence	Appropriation authority for innovative pollution reduction projects.	
TOTAL		\$26,441,342		
Capital Budget Funding:				
Local Toxics Reappropriation	32,608,000	Hazardous substance tax	Grants to local governments for contaminated site cleanups and waste prevention	
Toxics New Appropriation	75,000,000	Hazardous substance tax	Grants to local governments for contaminated site cleanups and waste prevention	

Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program Dollars by Fund Source



Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program Dollars by Activity



Activity	Dollars	FTEs
Eliminate Waste, Promote Material Reuse, and Safely Manage Trash	\$9,325,019	52.0
Prevent and Pick Up Litter	\$8,940,784	8.2
Fund Local Efforts to Clean Up Toxic Sites and Manage or Reduce Waste	\$2,916,946	15.4
Provide a One Stop Shop to the State's Largest Industrial Facilities for Environmental Permitting	\$4,314,041	19.1
Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment	\$944,553	3.1
Total Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program	\$26,441,343	97.8